

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

To:

Tay Yeo King  
Block 520, Jurong West Street 52  
#09 - 179, Singapore 640520

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing 1 February 2005 (01.02.2005)  
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/SG 2004/000363

International filing date (day/month/year)  
4 November 2004 (04.11.2004)

Priority Date (day/month/year)  
5 November 2003 (05.11.2003)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
A47B 88/10

Applicant

LAM HARN LIAN

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Cont. No. I Basis of the opinion  
☐ Cont. No. II Priority  
☐ Cont. No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  
☐ Cont. No. IV Lack of unity of invention  
☒ Cont. No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement  
☐ Cont. No. VI Certain documents cited  
☒ Cont. No. VII Certain defects in the international application  
☐ Cont. No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

## 2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1 bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Ingrid Velinsky-Huber  
@ patent.gov.at

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ AT  
Austrian Patent Office  
Dresdner Straße 87, A-1200 Vienna

Facsimile No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 535

Authorized officer  
VELINSKY-HUBER I.

Telephone No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 371

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/SG 2004/000363

Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.
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Continuation No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

|                               |               |     |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Novelty (N)                   | Claims 2, 3   | YES |
|                               | Claims 1, 4-6 | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Claims 2, 3   | YES |
|                               | Claims 1, 4-6 | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1-6    | YES |
|                               | Claims ----   | NO  |

2. Citations and explanations:

The following documents have been cited in the Search Report:

D1: US 4955160 A

D2: US 2003197452 A

The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Articles 33 (2) and (3) PCT because the subject matter of claims 1 and 4 – 6 is not new in respect of prior art as defined in the regulations (Rule 64 (1) - (3) PCT) and does not involve an inventive step (Rule 65(1) (2) PCT).

As to claim 1, document D1 discloses a drawer guide rail assembly mounted for a guided and stabilized movement with respect to a furniture member.

The rail assembly comprises a fixed guide (supporting rail 3) attached to an inner sidewall of the furniture member having at least one running surface (flanges 7). It further comprises an intermediate pull out channel section (pull out rail 2) sliding back and forth relative to the fixed guide, the upper surface of the intermediate pull out channel section (cf. fig. 3) providing a second running surface and housing a first roller bearing unit (carriage 4, rollers 5, 6). It further includes an outer pull out channel section (drawer rail 12) for attachment to the

undersurface of a drawer sliding back and forth relative to the intermediate pull out channel section which houses a second roller bearing (carriage 15, rollers 13).

Stabilizing means (cf. flanges 9) are positioned between the intermediate and the outer pull out channel section and the first and the second roller bearing prevent lateral movement within the guide rails (cf. column 3, lines 36 - 40 and 56 - 58).

The known drawer guide rail assembly guarantees smooth running and good lateral guiding for heavy drawers. Because of the two differently rolling contacts, one (rollers 5, 6, 19) within the pull channels and another (rollers 13, 19) at each side of a channel high rigidity in operation can be achieved. Stabilizing means (flanges 9) give additional stability against drawer load.

Therefore document D1 discloses all essential features of the subject matter of claim 1. The only difference in comparison to document D1 is that the running surface of the fixed guide is T-shaped (instead of the channel shape shown in document D1), which is a normal design option to a person skilled in the art for providing stabilized and secured lateral movement of the drawer in order that forces are applied symmetrically and tilting is prevented.

Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step with regard to the prior art because it is obvious to a person skilled in the art. Thus the subject matter of claim 1 is not new and inventive.

In addition document D1 (cf. figure 3) also teaches that the fixed guide (supporting rail 3) is an L-shaped bracket provided with a running surface as described in dependent claim 4. Document D1 (cf. figure 3) further shows that the intermediate and outer pull out guide each has a C-shaped cross section as claimed in dependent claim 5. Besides document D1 also teaches that the roller unit comprises cylindrical roller bodies (rollers 5, 6, 13) held by a suitable receptacle (carriages 4, 15) according to claim 6.

Therefore the subject matter of claims 4, 5 and 6 is not new and inventive with respect to document D1.

Again with regard to claim 1, also document D2 refers to a drawer guide rail assembly mounted for a guided and stabilized movement with respect to a furniture member.

Also this prior art assembly comprises a fixed guide (track 10) attached to an inner sidewall of the furniture member having at least one running surface (guide portion 11). It further comprises an intermediate pull out channel section (inner slide rail 30) sliding back and forth relative to the fixed guide, the upper surface (top 31) of the intermediate pull out channel section providing a second running surface and housing a first roller bearing unit (roller seat 40). It further includes an outer pull out channel section (outer slide rail 20) for attachment to the undersurface of a drawer sliding back and forth relative to the intermediate pull out channel section which houses a second roller bearing (roller seat 50).

Stabilizing means (cf. horizontal lateral upper flanges on the inner slide rail 30) are positioned between the intermediate and the outer pull out channel section and the first and the second roller bearing prevent lateral movement within the guide rails (cf. fig. 1).

The known drawer guide rail assembly guarantees smooth running and good lateral guiding for heavy drawers. Because of the two differently rolling contacts, one (rollers 41, 42, 43) within the pull channels and another (rollers 51, 52) at each side of a channel high rigidity in operation can be achieved. Stabilizing means (flanges on the inner slide rail 30) give additional stability against drawer load.

Therefore document D2 discloses all essential features of the subject matter of claim 1. The only difference in comparison to document D2 is that the running surface of the fixed guide is

T-shaped (instead of the J-shaped guide 11, 12 shown in document D2), which is a normal design option to a person skilled in the art for providing stabilized and secured lateral movement of the drawer in order that forces are applied symmetrically and tilting is prevented. Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step with regard to document D2 because it is obvious to a person skilled in the art. Thus the subject matter of claim 1 is not new and inventive.

The subject matter of claims 4, 5 and 6 is not new and inventive with respect to document D2 because also document D2 discloses an L-shaped bracket (10, see fig. 1) for the fixed guide, an intermediate and an outer pull out guide with a C-shaped cross section (cf. fig. 1) and a roller unit comprising cylindrical roller bodies (rollers 41, 42, 43, 51, 52) held by a suitable receptacle (40, 50).

Claims 2 and 3 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33 (2) and (3) for novelty and inventive step because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest stabilising means in the form of a metal sheet having inclined sides where the stabilising means are detachable.

Claims 1 - 6 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the drawer guide rail assembly claimed therein can be made or used in industry.

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**Continuation No. VII:**

**Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Independent claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Rule 6.3 (b) PCT according to which the claim should be properly cast in the two part form with those features which in combination are part of the prior art being placed in the preamble.

All the claims 1 - 6 do not meet the requirements of Rule 6.2 (b) PCT according to which reference signs should be inserted in parentheses in the claims; this applies to both the preamble and the characterising portion.

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